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SUMMARY OF QUESTIONNAIRE ON
METHODS USED IN 4-H CLUB WORK WITH UPPER AGE GROUP 15 TO 21
Western States, 1945.

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"How can we reach more 15 to 21 year old youth in 4-H Work" and "How can we prevent the heavy loss after the first year in 4-H" are two pressing questions facing most States this year.

In an attempt to discover what each of the Western States has been doing about these questions in the past, a questionnaire was sent to State leaders. The experiences of the States are here briefly summarized from these replies.

It is apparent that no one State has the entire answer. Perhaps, however, if we

1. Take the best experience of all, the little ideas as well as the big ones -- and
2. Study the peculiar needs, problems and interest of the age group concerned -- and
3. Build a program based on the big problems facing Americans -- and
4. Get every one back of 4-H

we may be on our way to reaching more young people and maintaining them in 4-H for a longer time.

The summary is divided into two parts -

Section A - those States with special emphasis on the 15 to 21 year old group.

Section B - those States who have no special program for the upper age group.

SECTION A - States with Some Form of Special 4-H Program for 15- to 21-year olds

5 States have special program
operating in about 57 counties
with about 2,018 members

Typical names
4-H Builders
4-H Seniors
Farm and Home Science Clubs
All Star

County vs. Community organization

All 5 States have this program organized on an out-of-school basis and 3 are on a community basis and 2 on a county-wide basis.

Meetings

As a rule, boys and girls meet together. In 3 States these clubs meet on a monthly basis - 1 twice per month - and mostly evenings.

Projects

All carry projects of some kind. No special projects just for these groups available, but larger projects are encouraged in 4 States. One has special projects for this group.

Discussions largely about the 4-H program, service activities for 4-H work and agricultural and homemaking subject matter.

Community service activities largely in support of 4-H program like

Sponsor Achievement Days, Help in 4-H Camps

4-H Fairs Salvage drives, etc.

Exhibit Days

One State reports: "Farm work where illness or death had interfered with family plans."

Assistance with community canning - Sewing for needy

All these programs require prior 4-H membership - Some as much as 4 years

Special events or activities these members take part in

(a) Special Senior Camps

(e) Special emphasis at 4-H Summer School

(b) Special trips

(c) Special Marketing studies

(f) Farm & Home Science Banquet

(d) Senior 4-H Day on campus

(g) Seniors wear white caps

Comments by States with a Special 4-H 15-21 Program in reply to questions:

A) IN WHAT WAYS DO YOU THINK THE CONTENTS OF THE CLUB PROGRAM FOR THE 15-21 AGE GROUP SHOULD DIFFER FROM THE PROGRAM FOR THE 10-14 AGE GROUP?

"A larger project - more responsibility and special duties for them. Wider in scope. Larger challenge. Recognize their importance. Possibly an activity type of program with less requirements on submitting reports, etc., could be used effectively as basis of membership. Individual improvement, Community Service, etc., could be basis for reports."

"More responsibilities - more challenging and more interesting. More travel."

"The programs for older boys and girls should be more dignified - more cultural and not too detailed."

B) WHAT IS YOUR OPINION WITH RESPECT TO
THE MAJOR PROBLEMS INVOLVED IN DEVELOPING AND CARRYING OUT A 4-H
CLUB PROGRAM FOR THE 15-21 AGE GROUP?

"Keep them interested by getting them busy."

"1st - Adequately trained personnel on State level to organize and supervise well planned programs

- 2nd - Making program big enough - attractive enough - to compete with high school and other organizations open to this age group.
- 3rd - Help county agents to see importance of this group. Give them a vision of significance of older youth. Give them training and help to do the job."

C) COMMENTS ON VALUE OF SPECIAL PROGRAM.

"Our 'Senior 4-H Program' increased the % of 15 to 21 year olds from 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ % in 1931 to 14 $\frac{1}{2}$ % in 1935."

D) HOW DO YOU PREVENT A LARGE DROP AFTER THE FIRST-YEAR ENROLLMENT (IN THE 10 to 14 AGE BRACKET)?

1. Get-together meetings during the winter. Parties, songs, dances, tours, overnight camps.
2. Keep the club members coming to 'something.' Never let them feel they are not members.
3. Have leaders councils and keep these leaders happy and proud to be 4-H leaders. This means giving leader training, socials and much help and encouragement."

"We don't! It is still about 50%! But our 'Senior 4-H Club Program' has been influential in retaining those who stay through this bracket."

"We don't! Adequate training for new leaders as well as new members urged as one means of reducing loss. We feel that more thoroughly trained leaders is a must in correcting this situation."

"We do not."

SECTION B - Comments by States Who Do Not Have A Special Program for the 15 to 21 Year Olds.

A) HOW DO YOU EMPHASIZE THE WORK FOR THIS AGE GROUP?

1. BY WHAT TYPES OF PROJECTS (SIZE, ETC.)?

"Projects larger in size and more difficult requiring experience gained during earlier years are available to this group. There are so many more things than these members can do for lack of time that it is a challenge to them. These older members can do many things the younger one can't due to age and experience. Most members don't quit because there's nothing to do but because they didn't do a good enough job to get and stay interested."

"We attempt to organize older 4-H groups both on a school and out-of-school basis. The number of these groups is very limited. It probably does not exceed 100 for the State in enrollment. We have stressed heavier projects and more social activities for these groups."

"By encouraging larger projects, such as pens of five steers; pens of carload lots; several projects; and by making them local leaders or assistant leaders. Also put them in charge of details."

"Increased size and scope of projects."

"Limiting some awards to 14 and over."

"More community projects."

2. HOW ARE PROGRAMS PLANNED TO HOLD THE INTEREST OF THIS AGE GROUP?

"By giving them responsibility - as committee chairmen, council members, junior leaders, etc. Also, by having them help plan program and help to carry it out so it meets their needs."

"This age group largely plan their program with the help of their leader and county extension worker. These older age members are among our most successful."

"Junior Leadership project is planned. Also, by frequent visits to the farm, county agents are able to maintain interest of older boys."

"Programs planned by club members themselves with council, leader, and parent help."

3. WHAT SPECIAL EVENTS DO YOU HAVE FOR THEM?

"Leadership project and contest with awards. Trips to State Fair, National Western 4-H Roundup and others. Demonstration and Judging Contests are very much for these folks in peacetimes."

"The large fairs are divided into senior and junior divisions and compete separately. Towns and social meetings largely comprise the schedule other than the fairs. Also radio programs."

"As a rule, only the general events of the council."

"More recreation in community clubs."

4. WHAT OTHER WAYS?

"Project accomplishments mean much and are respected by the public. That's quite an incentive. There are more contests and awards than there is participation in some instances. The support of the 4-H program by the community at large is a help in keeping older members."

"Personal interest on the part of leaders and supervisors."

"4-H Councils."

B) IN WHAT WAYS DO YOU THINK THE CONTENTS OF THE CLUB PROGRAM FOR THE 15-21 AGE GROUP SHOULD DIFFER FROM THE PROGRAM FOR THE 10-14 AGE GROUP?

"By being more advanced, setting more difficult objectives, being planned more by them including activities interesting to them. Should be on a more mature basis."

"Carry heavier loads. More freedom in developing program for group. Stress broader development in leadership and encourage citizenship development on an adult level."

"The program for older youth should include more social activities for mixed groups."

"More activities just for this age group to take part."

"Projects should be of community-wide interest such as citizenship activities and projects of a demonstrative nature that can be used as result demonstration to visit on farm tours; Evening dinner educational meetings similar to those held by civic clubs would be suitable."

"There should be a definite change in all local programs."

"More emphasis on size and scope of club project."

"More discussion groups."

"More recreation."

"Members must plan and direct own program."

C) WHAT IS YOUR OPINION WITH RESPECT TO

1. THE MAJOR PROBLEMS INVOLVED IN DEVELOPING AND CARRYING OUT A 4-H CLUB PROGRAM FOR THE 15-21 AGE GROUP?

"You've got to get them before they're 15 if you get them in 4-H. Program must be real - meet their needs and compete with many other very interesting things. A real leader will do much or more than all else to hold this group in the program."

"Lack of local leaders."

"Lack of extension personnel".

"One grievous drawback has been lack of personnel in the field. All their time has not sufficed to cover the lower age group let alone touching the more difficult problem of older-age young people."

"Personnel to train local leaders and assist in planning the program."

"Careful planning and checking up would need to be done quite often to make the program run throughout the year I believe. We lack recreational leaders to train this group in square dances, etc."

"Training and directing local leadership."

"Present types of projects."

"Desirable objectives."

"Methods of program planning, execution and direction."

D) MAKE SUGGESTIONS AS TO A SUITABLE PROGRAM TO FOLLOW

- "1. Must get them well established in 4-H work as 10-14 year olds.
2. Get sound programs started with goals in mind and interest of parents as well as members.
3. Get best man or woman in community to lead this older 4-H group. If you can sell the community on the program you can and will get better leaders."

"My first suggestion would be to get the personnel needed. Due to minimum amount of work done in this field, some experience would be needed to adapt program to local conditions. Build on program used in States where problem has been met and solved."

"We must have more local leaders."

"We have in mind organizing separate 4-H clubs (for the 15 to 21 year olds) that would meet in the evening in the summer and at noon in the winter. They would sponsor agriculture and home economics programs and projects of community interest. Those who wished would carry result demonstrations like demonstrate the adaptability of new crops and practices; those demonstrations would be the basis for farm tours."

"Definite separation of older and younger groups."

"Revised subject matter."

"Two definite types of social activities."

E) HOW DO YOU PREVENT A LARGE DROP AFTER THE FIRST-YEAR ENROLLMENT (IN THE 10 TO 14 AGE BRACKET)?

"By doing a good job with them. Those who do the best job are those who take up second year instead of dropping out. Lack of time to properly organize clubs, assist leaders and give some general supervision has been one drawback. Earlier organization and enrollment and a year-round 4-H program would help overcome these drawbacks."

"We don't. We endeavor to make 4-H work so interesting that there will be a desire to continue. We lose a large number when they go to Junior and Senior H.S. and they go in increasing number at 12 and 13 years of age. Due to transportation problems, we have been largely geared to the grammar-school group."

"We try to keep local leaders by giving them sufficient training that they will feel at home in the work they are doing, giving them assistance so their program will be successful, by giving local recognition and by encouraging early reorganization after the club year is completed. We try not to emphasize prizes too much, but the improvement club members have made."

"Closer supervision."

"More emphasis on achievements."

"Carefully planned social program including camps."

"Better trained leadership."

"Careful analysis of present subject matter should be made."

"We don't."

"We don't."

"We don't."

"Has not prevented except where we have good local leaders."

"We do not. However, organizing on a community basis seems to hold promise."

